Security for Kashmiri Pandits

3426. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether security men failed to save the few Kashmiri families leaving in the Anantnag valley who left for Jammu to save their lives; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to increase security for the left over Kashmiri pandits in the valley?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Targeted attacks on minorities have been a part of militant's strategy to create panic and terror among them with a view to force them to migrate from J&K. Some of the measures taken to increase security and create confidence in minorities including Kashmiri Pandits are:

(i) Strengthening of the village Defence Committee system by providing training, improved weaponary and communication equipment in select cases;

(ii) Vigil on borders stepped up;

(iii) Establishment of Security Force pickets at all strategically important places;

(iv) Posting of additional naka parties manned by BSF/Security Forces/State Police at sensitive places in order to check infiltration of men, weapons and equipments;

(v) Increased frequency of patrolling by security forces of sensitive and vulnerable areas;

(vi) Intelligence network has been further sharpened;

(vii) Clustering of minority population near their places of work;

(viii) To nab/neutralise terrorists Security Forces/Para Military Forces have been directed by the State Government to lay ambushes near the villages inhabited by the minorities;

(ix) A number of joint meetings of the various communities have been held at various places in the valley to restore their confidence;

(x) Constant monitoring of the security situation.

Naxalite Activities in Orissa

3427. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the losses sustained by the State of Orissa due to naxalite activities during the last three years;

(b) the number of people killed and injured in these years;

(c) whether the Peoples War Group has set up training camp in Malkangiri district and extended naxal activities to Gajapathi district of Orissa;

(d) if so, the steps taken to curb such violence activities in Orissa;

(e) whether the matter was discussed in the Chief Ministers conference held in April at New Delhi; and

(f) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) As per available information, the losses sustained by the State of Orissa due to naxalite activities during the last three years are to the tune of Rs. 26 lakhs approximately.

(b) As per available reports, five persons were killed during the last three years.

(c) The activities of the People's War Group have come to notice in Malkangiri and Gajapathi districts, however, there are no confirmed reports to indicate that the outfit has set up training camp in Malkangiri district.

(d) The Central Government has set up a Coordination Centre, headed by the Union Home Secretary with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of the States seriously affected by left wing extremism, as its members to review and coordinate the steps taken by these States to check extremist activities, monitor the plan of action in respect of each State and to make recommendations both on development and security aspects of the problems.

The Coordination Centre has been meeting periodically. Several important decisions such as providing financial support from the Centre for combating left wing extremist activities, construction/improvement of identified critical roads, preparation of plans for development of affected areas